

REMARKS

The application has been amended as needed so as to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 27-28 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of FOSTER et al. 4,271,228. The Official Action states that the admitted prior art discloses a gasket for a high-temperature joint wherein the gasket comprises a gasket basic substance formed by filling gaps of a meshed metallic reinforcing member with a heat resistant filler and a coverture made of a heat resistant antifriction material such as boron nitride. The admitted prior art differs from the herein-claimed invention in reciting that the filler material is primarily composed of graphite, rather than diatomaceous earth and/or synthetic mica, added with synthetic bentonite as recited in applicants' claims. The secondary reference to FOSTER et al. is relied upon as disclosing a heat resistant gasket material wherein the filler can be primarily composed of graphite, synthetic mica, and/or synthetic bentonite. It is concluded that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the gasket of the admitted prior art by utilizing a filler primarily comprised of synthetic mica and added with synthetic bentonite.

Reconsideration of the above rejection is respectfully requested for the following reasons.

By the present amendment, claims 27 and 28 have been canceled, thereby obviating and rendering moot this particular ground of rejection.

The Primary Examiner had kindly indicated that claims 14-17 and 22-25 stood allowed.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, therefore, it is believed that this application has been placed in condition for allowance on the basis of claims 14-17 and 22-25. Reconsideration and allowance are accordingly earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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